



# FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Rebekah Gongora**

**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Regional Transportation Council Meeting**

**April 10, 2025**

# FEDERAL UPDATE

## Senate Environment and Public Works Hearing

The Senate EPW Committee held a hearing on April 2 to discuss surface transportation reauthorization.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expires September 30, 2026.

USDOT Secretary Duffy testified and focused on improving project delivery, formula funding, regulatory reform, and infrastructure investments.

Chair Capito highlighted 3 principles for reauthorization:

- Improving the safety and reliability of the surface transportation network
- Reforming and modernizing federal programs to increase efficiency
- Addressing needs across states through flexibility



# RTC 2019 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION TOPICS

Adequately Fund The Transportation System

Define a National Transportation Vision

Increase Efficiency

Expand Options

Pursue Innovation, Technology, and Safety



# TEXAS LEGISLATURE - UPCOMING DEADLINES

**May 12, 2025**

Last day for House committees to report HBs and HJRs

**May 23/24, 2025**

Last day for House to consider local HBs on local calendar / Last day House committees to report SBs and SJRs

**May 30, 2025**

Last day to adopt conference committee report on budget; Last day for House to act on Senate amendments

**June 2, 2025**

Corrections only; final day of the 89<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

**May 15/16, 2025**

Last day for House to consider 2<sup>nd</sup> reading HBs and HJRs / 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on daily or supplemental calendar

**May 27/28, 2025**

Last day for House to consider 2<sup>nd</sup> reading SBs and SJRs / 3<sup>rd</sup> reading

**June 1, 2025**

Last day for House to adopt conference committee reports or concur in Senate amendments



# TEXAS LEGISLATURE – STATE BUDGET

## HOUSE BUDGET: CSSB 1

House Appropriations Committee  
Approved on March 31

Full House Debating April 10

Statewide Total for FY26-27: **\$337.4 billion** in All Funds (+1.3% over FY24-25)

General Revenue **\$153.6 billion** (+7.7%)

TxDOT Total for FY26-27: **\$39.9 billion** in All Funds (Net decrease of \$401 million)

- **\$35.8 billion** for highway planning, design, construction, maintenance (increase of \$258.7 million)
- Heartland Flyer in Article XI (wish list)



## SENATE BUDGET: CSSB 1

Full Senate Approved March 25

Statewide Total for FY26-27: **\$336 billion** in All Funds (+.9% over FY24-25)

General Revenue **\$153.4 billion** (+7.6%)

TxDOT Total for FY26-27: **\$39.9 billion** in All Funds (Net decrease of \$404 million)

- **\$35.8 billion** for highway planning, design, construction, maintenance (increase of \$258.7 million)
- No Heartland Flyer funding

# BILLS WITH ACTION

## TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

**SB 1555 (Nichols):** Establishes a grant program for railroad grade separation projects

- Passed Senate Transportation Committee on March 12, Passed full Senate on March 25, Referred to House Transportation Funding Subcommittee on April 9

**HB 3727 (Patterson):** Companion to SB 1555

- Left Pending in House Subcommittee on Transportation Funding on April 3

\$350 million for the grant program in HB 500 – Supplemental budget; Placed on House Calendar for April 10



# BILLS WITH ACTION

## HOUSE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

Met March 31; RTC written testimony was provided

### FUNDING AND TOLLING

**HB 1288 (Landgraf):** Relating to discretionary funding decisions of the Texas Transportation Commission (Left Pending)

- Committee Substitute updates the Category 12 cap from 10% to 20%; previously proposed to remove the cap completely

**HB 2323 (Shaheen):** Would mandate the cessation of tolls on toll projects once their costs and associated bond obligations are fully paid off (Left Pending)

Upcoming hearing on April 14:

**HB 1589 (Gerdes):** Would require voter approval for the construction of a new toll project (Will submit written testimony)



# BILLS WITH ACTION

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL

**HB 1402 (Harris):** Would prohibit the use of public funds for roadway alterations related to the construction of high-speed rail projects by either public or private entities

- Left Pending in House Transportation Funding Subcommittee on March 31
- RTC written testimony was provided

**HB 2003 (Harris):** Would mandate that entities proposing high-speed rail projects submit detailed annual information to the Texas Department of Transportation, which will be made publicly available on the department's website

- Left Pending in House Transportation Committee on April 3





# BILLS WITH ACTION

## HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

Met on March 27

**HB 1361 (Hernandez):** Would distribute Low-Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program (LIRAP) funds to counties for transportation/air quality programs

- If approved, would return \$176.2 million back to counties by January 2026, approximately \$88 million to the DFW region
- Left pending in committee
- Written testimony was provided



# CONTACT US



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# TRANSIT 2.0 STUDY-TASKS

Task 2	Develop Transit Legislative Program 
Task 3	Develop Strategies to Increase Transit Authority Membership 
Task 4	Develop Collaborations Between Existing Transit Authorities 
Task 5	Develop Strategies for Transit Authority Board Partnerships & Teamwork 
Task 6	Develop Strategies for In-Fill Development 
Task 7	Review of Fare Collection Strategies 
Task 8	Develop Recommendations for Transit Authority/Member City Paradox 
Task 9	Final Report 



Complete



Draft Being Presented

# Background for Proposed Local Bill Impacting The 90<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

MICHAEL MORRIS, P.E.

North Central Texas Council of Governments

April 10, 2025

# TRANSIT 2.0 TASK 5: DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD PARTNERSHIPS & TEAMWORK

## Top 5 Focus Areas

Micro Transit to  
Inform Route  
Planning

Next Generation  
Transit Signals

Private Sector  
Service Delivery

Invest in  
Catalytic  
Economic  
Development

Safety / Fare  
Enforcement

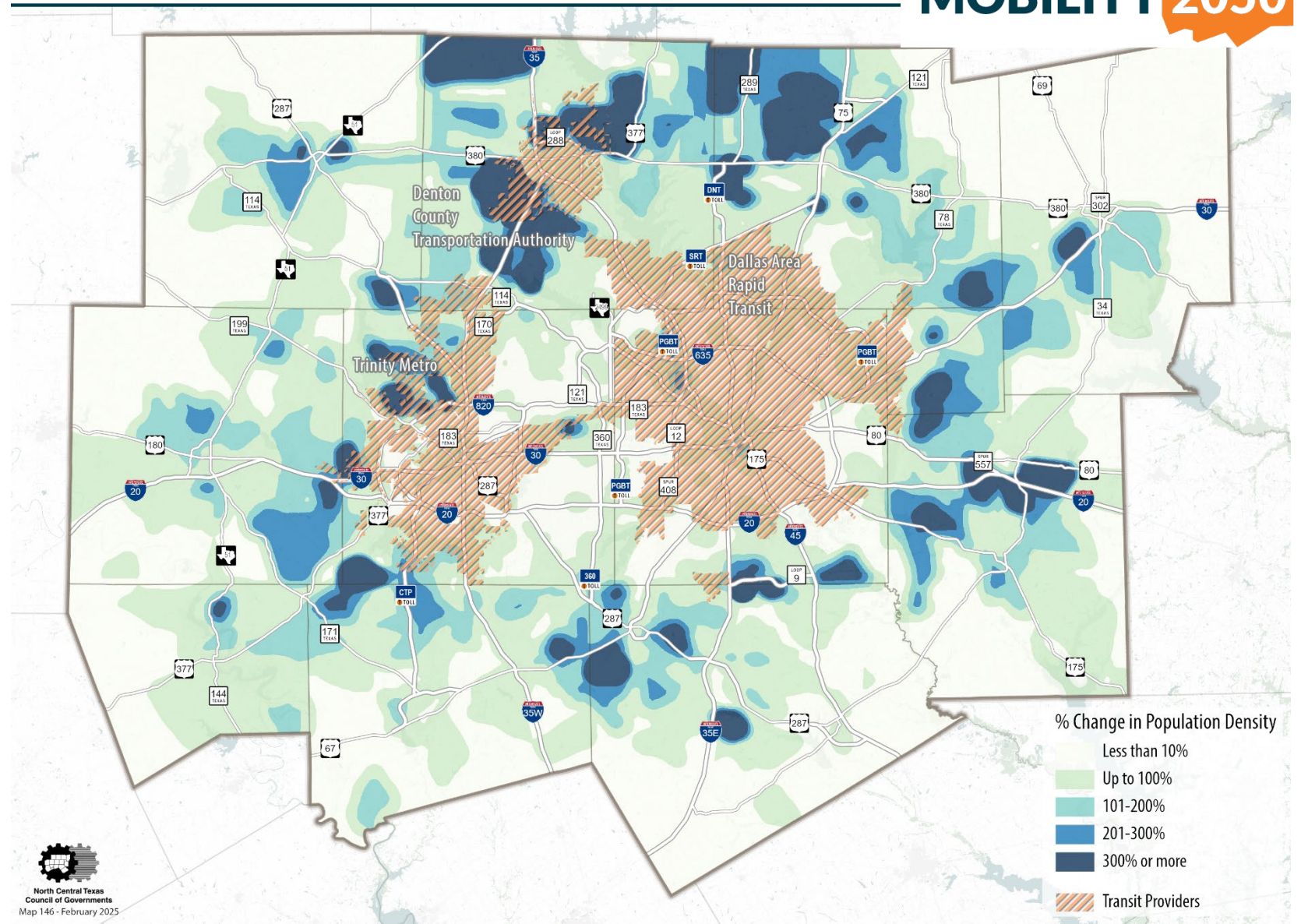
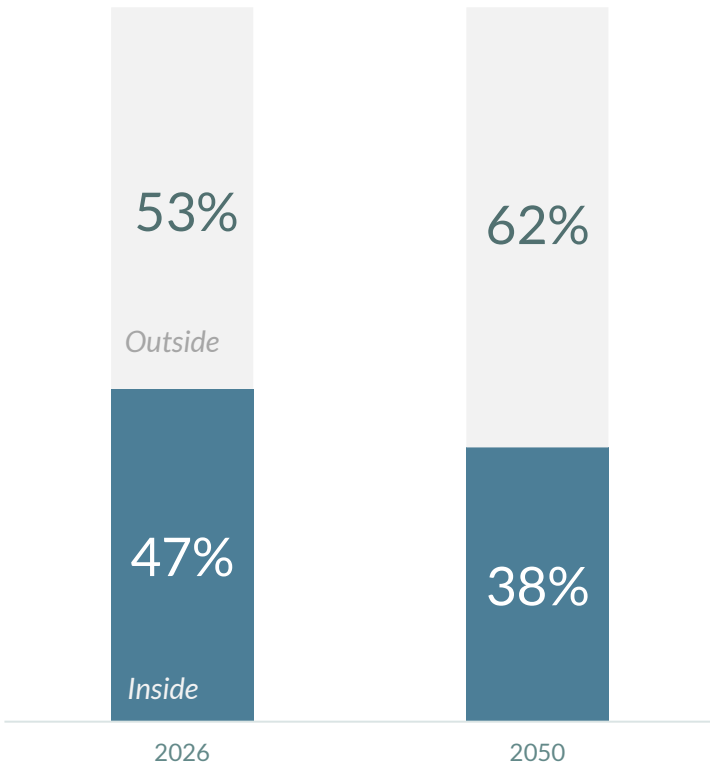


# Possible Risk From New DART Legislation to the Regional Transportation Council

- 1.) Delay in 2050 Mobility Plan/Conformity (Including Reduction in Regional Transit Connections)
- 2.) Potential Roadway Sanctions (Clean Air Act)
- 3.) FIFA 2026 Delivery
- 4.) Loss of Federal Discretionary Grants
- 5.) Reduction of Federal Formula Transit Funds
- 6.) Unclear Role of Transit 2.0
- 7.) Negative Impacts to Federal Performance Measures



# Population within Transit Authority Service Areas



# 12-County Sales Tax Impact Region/State Comparison

Item	2013	2024
Region Population	6,796,661	8,342,425
Texas Population	26,448,193	31,290,831
% Region Population	25.7%	26.7%
Region Total Sales Tax	\$7,188,461,931	\$13,719,801,309
State Total Sales Tax	\$25,944,000,000	\$47,160,000,000
% Region Sales Tax	27.7%	29.1%
Ratio	1.078	1.091

**State Donor Impact**  
 $(1.091 - 1.078) * 47,160,000,000 =$   
**\$612 million/year**

Sources: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; US Census Bureau; NCTCOG

Dallas-Fort Worth Sales Tax: Allocation Comparison Summary Reports (<https://comptroller.texas.gov/transparency/local/allocations/sales-tax/>)

State Sales Tax: Annual Tax Collections ([https://comptroller.texas.gov/about/media-center/infographics/2025/bre26-27/collections.php?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://comptroller.texas.gov/about/media-center/infographics/2025/bre26-27/collections.php?utm_source=chatgpt.com))

This analysis was conducted with the assistance of AI tools to support data location. All data was verified with the original source.





**Oppose DART Legislation That Reduces Funding For DART (Not Being Proposed By Staff)**

**Continue Near Term Solutions: Regional Transportation Council Mediation and Implementation of Transit 2.0 (Contact Authors for Interest)**

**Support Local Bill from 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Requesting RTC to Implement Transit 2.0 Initiatives for the 90<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

